



SAPC Newsletter

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control



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May 2010

Director's Corner

On Friday, April 16, the **SAPC Quarterly Director's Town Hall Meeting** focused on creating linkages between primary care and addiction treatment in preparation for the implementation of the national health plan. SAPC Director John Viernes emphasized the need for connection between providers and local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), which will serve as the focal venues for primary care services for an expanded eligible population. Please click [here](#) for the PowerPoint presentation.

The guest panel included Dr. Keith Heinzerling, UCLA Department of Family Medicine; Elizabeth Boyce, LCSW, Coordinator of Homeless Services for the Department of Health Services; and Mary Marx, District Chief for the Department of Mental Health. Dr. Heinzerling urged addiction service providers to make connections with primary care providers, as the demand for referral to treatment would increase with the new federal mandates. Ms. Boyce and Ms. Marx's presentation described the County's **Project 50** (integrated health, mental health, and substance abuse treatment services for chronically homeless individuals and families), outcome data, and project financial sustainability.

Dr. Desiree Crevecoeur (UCLA-ISAP) presented an update on the measures under consideration for performance-based contracting. These include length of stay (30 and 90 day), completed exit interviews, and positive compliance for outpatient counseling programs.

Finally, Jeff Christensen, Project Director of the Sober Living Network, gave a briefing on the Network's initiatives and activities, including the improvement of standards for sober living facilities.

The next Quarterly Director's Town Hall Meeting will be held on Friday, July 30, 2010, 10:00 am – noon at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

SAPC News

♦ SAPC was recently awarded a **California Emergency Management Agency Offender Treatment Recovery Act Program grant for \$10.5 million**. These funds will be distributed to the 88 agencies that currently provide P36 services in LA County. This grant is meant to enhance substance abuse treatment services for

eligible non-violent offenders, and will extend their treatment time, if necessary. In addition, this stipend will increase the proportion of convicted offenders who enter, remain in, and complete treatment by expanding the treatment continuum to include less intensive options, such as low-cost outpatient counseling, and other less costly treatment service options. Finally, these funds will be used to reduce delays in the availability of appropriate services.

Collaborative Projects

♦ The **37th annual AI-Impics** will be held on May 22, 2010, at the El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center at 8:30 a.m. and will last throughout the day. Started in 1973 in the Antelope Valley, the AI-Impics celebrates wellness and sobriety, while underlining the message that recovery from alcohol and other drugs is possible. Substance abusers and those in recovery from throughout California, the United States, and Mexico will participate and compete in track and field events, health education and prevention activities,

volleyball, 3-on-3 basketball, weightlifting, and social activities. The AI-Impics nurtures camaraderie among those in recovery and increases overall health and wellness. Those in recovery, families, friends, and the general public are welcome to attend!

♦ **The Department of Public Health's Tobacco Control and Prevention Program** provided nicotine patches and gum to mental health and substance abuse treatment centers and to community clinics to promote smoking cessation. As part of this program, the **Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers** received 1,000 starter kits for clients.

SAPC Staff News

♦ **Silvia Lucero** recently joined the Financial Administrative Services division at SAPC, where she works as an intermediate clerk. Silvia comes to SAPC from a position at Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health.

♦ **Rafael Movsesyan** is a new member of the Contract Compliance and

Quality Assurance division at SAPC. He is a public health investigator and previously worked as a peace officer for the State.

♦ **Deborah Williams** retired from SAPC in March after 34 years of County service. We wish her the best of luck in her retirement!

♦ Congratulations to **Rico Cruz, Michelle Gibson, and Yanira Lima** for gradu-



Leadership Institute graduates and their mentors (from left): Penny Free, Michelle Gibson, Tom Renfree, Yanira Lima,

ating from the **Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center's Leadership Institute!** This eight-month program cultivates new leaders in the addiction field through the enhancement of knowledge and

Inside this issue:

SAPC News	1
Director's Corner	1
Collaborative Projects	1
SAPC Staff News	1
Research	2
For Providers	2
Local News	2
Federal News	2

SAVE THE DATE!

- **May 14:** SAPC-UCLA-PSATTC Lecture Series, *Evidence Based Addiction Treatment Strategies for Women and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community*; Alhambra Auditorium, 10:00-1:00. Register [here](#).
- **May 22:** 37th Annual AI-Impics; El Camino College Compton Community Educational Center, 1111 E. Artesia Blvd., Compton 90221. More information [here](#).
- **June 11:** The Los Angeles County Annual Drug Court Conference; The California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities, 1000 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles 90012. 8:30-4:00. Register [here](#).
- **June 23, August 19, October 21:** The ABCs of Hepatitis; OAPP, 600 S. Commonwealth Ave., Los Angeles 90005. 8:00-12:30. More information [here](#).
- **July 30:** Quarterly Director's Town Hall Meeting; Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. 10:00-12:00.

development of leadership competencies. Participants attended a five-day immersion training where they learned about themselves as leaders and were assigned mentors. Using the information that they learned about themselves at the five-day training, participants worked with their mentors to develop a six-month leadership project plan. During the course of the six months, participants spoke with their mentors on weekly basis via phone and occasionally met with their mentors in person to discuss progress with their leadership plans.



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**Please consider the
environment before printing
this e-bulletin.**

The SAPC Newsletter is an electronic publication aimed at informing SAPC's network of contracted alcohol and drug treatment, prevention, and recovery service providers of relevant AOD news at the local, state, and federal levels.

To submit stories, suggestions, or comments, please write to Alexandra Bruehl at:
abruehl@ph.lacounty.gov

For Providers

♦ The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued a memo describing **how treatment agencies can fulfill their obligation to return their completed census forms to the government without compromising their clients' confidentiality.** Please click [here](#) for the memo.

♦ UCLA-ISAP partners with SAPC on the **Los Angeles County Evaluation System (LACES)** project. Please see their **newsletter** [here](#).

Local News

♦ The Los Angeles County Drug Court Oversight Subcommittee is pleased to announce the **Los Angeles County Annual Drug Court Conference**, which presents the newest research on drug use trends, substance abuse treatment, and best practices for collaborative courts and substance abuse treatment professionals. The Los Angeles County Annual Drug Court Conference is scheduled for Friday, June 11, 2010, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Continuing education units will be provided and registration and participation are free. Please see the *Save the Date* section for more information or click [here](#) to register.

♦ The **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**, a division of SAMHSA, **awarded the suicide prevention center at Didi Hirsch**

Research

♦ **Research** shows that **alcohol consumption is linked to mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophageal, colon, rectum, liver, and breast cancer.** Women who drank six or seven days a week as teens had a five-fold increased risk of developing benign breast disease as young women, which could then become cancerous (see article [here](#)). Alcohol use may lead to cancer because its metabolism in the body releases acetaldehyde, which damages DNA and has other carcinogenic effects. Aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 (ALDH2) is an enzyme found in the body that breaks acetaldehyde down into a non-toxic metabolite. East Asians may be at greater cancer risk because some people of East Asian descent lack the active variant of ALDH2, making them more prone to the build-up of acetaldehyde.

♦ A recent **report** compiled by the UCLA Department of Statistics examines **drinking among Korean youth in the South Bay and in Koreatown.** This research shows that Korean youth generally began drinking at around age 14 and were introduced to alcohol by family and/or friends. Most say that they drink to have fun and be social. Though youth generally acquire alcohol from friends, 52 percent of Koreatown youth note that they purchase their alcohol at the store, either with or without a false identification. Prevention measures may want to target this group, given the research cited above regarding the health effects of heavy drinking among teen girls and the potentially greater negative health impacts of drinking among individuals of East Asian descent.

Community Mental Health Center one of its stipends to support increasingly strained crisis centers. Awardees will use these funds to increase their capacity to answer calls by enhancing staffing, equipment, or infrastructure; to conduct outreach to individuals grappling with severe economic stress; or to provide follow-up for individuals at high risk of suicide.

♦ A 2010 **report** by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and the Met Life Foundation shows that the **use of alcohol, marijuana, and ecstasy increased among youth in grades 9-12 from 2008 to 2009.** Teens' perceptions of the social acceptability, risk, and peer approval of drug and alcohol use softened, giving rise to these increases in use. Rates of use of cocaine, heroin, inhalants, methamphetamine, LSD, steroids, and other performance-enhancing drugs remained stable from 2008 to 2009.

♦ **State funding for Proposition 36 (P36) and the accompanying Offender Treatment Program (OTP) declined from \$145 million to \$18 million from FY 2007-08 to FY 2009-10.** A one-time Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) provided an additional \$45 million. Because P36 is a mandate, local governments are required to provide eligible individuals with treatment services instead of jail or prison time. California treatment agencies have had to improvise with available resources. Treatment programs may use alternate funding sources for individuals eligible for

P36, including Drug Medi-Cal, CalWORKS, General Relief, Parolee Services Network, private pay, or Block Grant funding, when available.

The campaign to properly fund the program will continue to be headed by the Los Angeles County Proposition 36 Task Force, which is actively working with key stakeholders in Los Angeles County and throughout California to make the best case for ensuring long-term funding, implement needed changes, address needs based on trends or collected data, and implement efforts for uniform standards in support of treatment. Los Angeles County will continue to implement the delivery of treatment services based on a Continuum of Care framework, with Proposition 36 as a pinnacle point in the Criminal Justice System.

In spite of a shortage of funding, Offender Treatment Programs (OTPs) continue to treat 2000 individuals at any given time. In the ten years that P36 has existed, **24,873 individuals have completed treatment through the P36 program in Los Angeles.** Statewide, P36 has helped 300,000 people access drug and alcohol treatment and has saved \$2 billion.



Bring Your Kids to Work Day: A few future SAPC employees with Director John Viernes, Jr. Left to right: My-Kel Scorza, Tabitha Hairston, and Amy Galez

The SAMHSA funding required the Lifeline to conduct a competitive application process for its network of crisis centers, through which 20 centers ultimately received stipends of up to \$50,000 each. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255) is a 24-hour, toll-free, confidential suicide prevention hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

Federal News

♦ **Thomas McLellan**, Deputy Director of the **Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)**, is resigning from his post. McLellan was appointed by the Obama administration in April 2009 and served under Director Gil Kerlikowske. Prior to this, McLellan served as the executive director of the Treatment Research Institute.